Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Bill Tretheway has been the band director at Custer High School and Middle School for the past 29 years and boasts a 33-year teaching career; and,

Whereas, The band program in grades K-12 had 25 students when he returned to Custer in 1976, and now there are more than 200 students in the program; and,

Whereas, What people remember most about him, his former students say, is not the flats and sharps, but how he always treated everyone with kindness and respect, which taught them about life and being good people; and,

Whereas, For more than three decades and two generations of band students in Custer, he has been a mentor, a life coach, a counselor, a friend, a confidant, a listener, and a father/grandfather figure in their lives; and,

Whereas, Many of his former students have become music teachers or active musicians in their communities because of the great example he set and his ability to make each student feel as if he or she was the most important person in the band; and,

Whereas, One student's tribute reads, "He is a man who stood for what was right and was always there to pick you up when you were down"; and,

Whereas, Bill's wife, Margaret, is also an accomplished musician and has given voice and piano lessons to a countless number of students over the years during which time the Tretheways' home became a second home to many students; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to make special note of this outstanding South Dakotan as Bill's colleagues, family, and friends gather on May 14, 2005, to honor and congratulate him as he officially retires:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2005, as

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in South Dakota, and I join his colleagues, friends and family as they recognize his commitment to a successful career and extend best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Third Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State